

Program Narrative

I Problems to be Addressed

Recidivism:

The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) houses more than 21,000 inmates at any given time. Of these inmates, approximately 10,000 are released to the community each year. In FY 1995, 10,464 inmates were released by max out, probation, or parole. Among them, 3,379 were returned to SCDC within 36 months for an overall recidivism rate of 32.3%. The recidivism rate for offenders released from SCDC has been consistent over the last six years, ranging from 33.3% to 28.0%. *Young offenders between the ages of 17 and 35 have returned at a significantly higher rate than older inmates. The inmates 25 or younger returned at double the rate of those over 40 years old. Based on a study of inmates released between 1996 and 1998, inmates with a prior criminal history also return to SCDC at a higher rate than inmates with no prior criminal history.*

Current Situation-Addressing the Problem

Reception and Evaluation: *Currently, the Department of Corrections administers an automated and structured assessment interview to inmates as they enter the agency through the Reception and Evaluation Centers. This assessment questionnaire provides information about special needs such as mental health problems, developmental disabilities, physical/medical disorders, as well as the needs of youthful offenders and sex offenders. This screening identifies cases for referral for additional testing, clinical and other assessments. Also reviewed are such issues as prior criminal history, prior institutional adjustment, serious offense detainees, social history and other background information. In addition, a Strategic Plan Sub-Committee is reviewing the current assessment process to make recommendations for improvements. In conjunction with this, an NIC consultant is currently assisting the*

Agency with a validation study of the classification system and SCDC is planning to ask for further assistance in the review of Reception and Evaluation procedures, including assessment. The consultant's report is expected soon and based on those recommendations, decisions will be made on changes that may be necessary. The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services is planning to begin a pilot project to use the LSI-R to assess risks and needs of offenders after release. SCDC is also considering a similar pilot project.

Under the conditions of this grant, adult inmates between the ages of 17 through 35, who have a prior criminal history and will be released under criminal justice supervision in the State of South Carolina will be eligible for additional pre-release services designed to decrease the likelihood of recidivism. Based on assessment of risk, the high-risk population will be identified and receive services at the designated Transition sites. Seven sites have been chosen to provide additional Transition services, and inmates from each of those sites will be returning to locations throughout the state. South Carolina is a small state and inmates released from each institution return to every county of the state.

Release Data for Adult Inmates Aged 17 through 35:

The following data provides insight on the number of inmates released on an annual basis who fall into this age category. In FY 2000, SCDC released 10,720 inmates. Thirty percent of these releases, or 3,227 inmates, were aged 35 or less at the time of release and served at least 12 months in SCDC. The following chart provides descriptive data about these inmates:

Record of Educational Achievement (GED, High School Diploma, or College Degree)	18.8%
Reading Score Below the 8 th Grade	75%
Chemically Dependent (Based on screening results at Reception and Evaluation)	61%
Any Kind of Prior Criminal History	77%
Incarcerated for Dangerous Drugs, Burglary, Assault, or Robbery	66.5%

However, not all 3,227 inmates will be targeted to receive services under this grant. Inmates who are sentenced under the South Carolina Youthful Offender Act (YOA) are already provided with intensive educational and vocational opportunities, life skills classes, addiction treatment, preparation for release, and aftercare supervision in the community; therefore, they will not be included as part of the target population. In addition, discharge planning will continue to be primarily provided through the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Programs, Mental Health Units, and the HIV/AIDS Programs and other specialized treatment programs rather than through the expanded Transition and pre-release services for the reentry initiative. The target population for services under this grant for serious, violent and high risk offenders is expected to number approximately 500 the first year, 1,000 the second year, and 1,500 the third year.

Barriers to Serving Adult Serious/Violent Offenders:

Currently, in South Carolina, the largest barrier to providing additional services to any group of inmates is the state budget. Declining revenues have forced unprecedented budget cuts for all state agencies, including SCDC. The SCDC budget has been reduced 17% or fifty-five million dollars in one fiscal year.

An extensive review of challenges inmates encounter in going home has identified issues related to housing, jobs, transportation, money, family, clothing, education, health care, food, storage, referrals, sex offender treatment, domestic and sexual violence, meeting the

requirements of community supervision, and other issues such as the offender's thinking, attitude and associations that could impede successful reentry.

Finally, as can be seen by the previous data, one of the greatest problems is that these inmates have so many needs that often there are not enough resources, staff members, or even enough time to provide services to address all these needs.

II Program Goals and Objectives

The goals of the initiative are to prevent reoffending; enhance public safety; redeploy and leverage existing resources; assist the offender to avoid crime, engage in pro-social community activities and meet family responsibilities; and ensure the program sustainability. Within these goals we expect to accomplish the following:

1: Begin the reentry planning process within the correctional setting and initiate contacts with key service providers, law enforcement, and community corrections agencies prior to discharge of the offender.

2: *Identify needs and provide support and services, including community connections, designed to promote successful reentry.*

3: *Ensure the offender is fully engaged in the planning process and clearly understands expectations and consequences.*

4: *Develop with the inmate an Individual Program Plan to include programming to meet specific needs (i.e. parenting/family responsibility, vocational/job skills development and job placement, development of relationships with mentors, cognitive thinking programs, educational programs, etc.)*

5: Exercise active supervision of the offender, *encouraging pro-social behavior* and ensuring accountability and/or appropriate graduated sanctions for non-compliance or criminal behavior.

- 6: Work with local law enforcement to ensure joint supervision and accountability.
- 7: Provide active ongoing management and supervision designed to hold the offender accountable and protect the public interest.
- 8: Utilize technology (electronic monitoring, etc.) to ensure that the offender's whereabouts are appropriate and do not pose an undue threat to the community or the victim.
- 9: *Develop community mentoring programs. Community organizations and churches will be recruited to assist with this.*
- 10: Develop and implement individual reintegration plans with appropriate levels of supervision. *Plans will include involvement of community organizations and, whenever possible, family involvement/support.*
- 11: *Use federal funds only to design, build, test and improve the system utilizing ongoing resources so that reentry programs are not dependent upon temporary federal funding.*
- 12: *Use federal funds only to enhance existing state or local resources and provide previous options not otherwise available or sufficient.*
- 13: *Increase communities' leveraging and allocation of resources to provide for the sustainability of the reentry initiative.*
- 14: Enhance partnerships among government agencies, business and community organizations.
- 15: Enhance the availability and quality of reentry services.
- 16: *Promote productive engagement between the offender and community organizations, (e.g., law enforcement, community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, substance abuse treatment providers, mental health providers, job training centers, employers, victim advocates, business partners and civic organizations).*
- 17: *Provide for and expect the offender to be a contributing productive citizen.*

18: *Increase involvement between members of offenders support networks and returning offenders.*

19: Ensure current community and government resources are utilized and will remain accessible once federal funds are unavailable. SCDC will ask *the SC Legislature for continued funding as well as leverage funds/support from other resources. A Legislative proposal will be introduced in the 2003 session of the South Carolina Legislature to request funding for Act 315, The Offender Employment Preparation Program, which was passed in 2001. Plans are for funding for reentry programs to be included in SCDC budget requests, as well as budget requests for partnering agencies.*

20: *Ensure broad government and community support and those relationships are enhanced and built.*

21: *Ensure that this initiative is viewed as integral to community and public safety.*

22: *Encourage positive public opinion for reentry programs. Utilize the media to promote reentry efforts as potentially leading to overall financial savings and improved public safety.*

Management Approach

The South Carolina vision for Offender Reentry is to establish a public/private partnership that provides a statewide continuum of services to offenders, from arrest to community reentry, based upon the offender's assessed needs and public safety concerns. In Phase I—Institutionally Based Programs, SCDC will expand Transition services to prepare inmates for reentry into the community through a statewide approach. The largest number of commitments comes from Greenville, Spartanburg, Richland, Charleston, York, Anderson and Florence counties. Some of the smaller counties and counties with lower numbers of

commitments appear to have higher recidivism rates. South Carolina is a small state and people tend to be mobile and may be released to a county other than the county of commitment. Two groups—women offenders and sex offenders—will receive institutional Transition services at a facility that serves inmates in that group from all parts of the state. The DPPPS office in the county in which they reside will provide community supervision. As a result, SCDC will expand specialized Transition services to the three major geographical regions in the state and supervision and services will be coordinated statewide.

- Validated risk and needs instruments and improved guidelines will be utilized to identify inmates in the serious, violent and high-risk categories and plan for their release.
- The classification system will incorporate a step-down approach so that institutional assignments will allow offenders to make a gradual transition to less secure facilities.
- Transition services will be expanded to more facilities to increase the number of inmates in pre-release programs.
- There will be special emphasis on preparing inmates for meaningful employment upon release from confinement.

Case Management System

A case management system will guide the decisions and prioritize the inmates who need Transition services. The plan will also incorporate identification of inmates with specialized treatment needs, providing appropriate treatment programs within the current budget constraints, and preparing inmates for employment through the recently enacted Offender Employment Preparation Program. Inmates will actively participate in this process through their classification reviews and contact with their classification case managers and probation or parole agents.

Engaging Local Resources

In addition to Statewide and Institutional Volunteer Councils, all SCDC Pre-Release Centers have Citizens Advisory Councils that meet to exchange information and ideas to assist in planning for inmates returning to communities. The specialized pre-release program at Watkins Pre-Release Center involves volunteers, community business leaders that employ ex-offenders, and local agency representatives to assist inmates to prepare for release. The SC Department of Corrections and the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (DPPPS), the Columbia Police Department and the Richland County Sheriff's Department, and other community partners, are *currently* involved in a project in the North Columbia area, "Reentry Initiative—A Partnership for Change." Information on this project is available at <http://www.state.sc.us/ppp/reentry.htm>. Similar model approaches will be developed for additional transition sites through the statewide Reentry Initiative.

The SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and the SC Department of Social Services operate in all 46 counties. The SC Department of Mental Health operates mental health centers and specialty offices to provide services throughout the state. The SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department has area offices and work training centers in 23 locations to serve all counties and correctional institutions in the state. In addition, the SC Employment Security Commission operates One Stop locations in 36 of the 46 counties and 12 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) regions providing employment services statewide. As outlined in the Memoranda of Understanding with State and other agency partners, local representatives will be identified to work collaboratively with the reentry initiative in each area. The Transition Coordinators will establish coordinating councils and meet regularly with local agency representatives to develop strategies and resources for the reentry initiative.

By utilizing transition coordinators from the Department of Corrections to form a link between the Department of Corrections and the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon

Services, it is anticipated that smoother transition for offenders will occur. The transition coordinators will be responsible for bridging the programs the offender has participated in while incarcerated with follow-up services after the offender has been released to the community. It is anticipated that providing continuous services prior to and following release will enhance the likelihood of success of the offender. The Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (DPPPS) will provide community supervision of the offenders based on an assessment of risk and needs. DPPPS will utilize all sanctions available, such as electronic monitoring and intensive supervision, to assist high-risk offenders in becoming successful. DPPPS has developed local relationships with providers and will assist the transition coordinators in the development of additional service resources.

III Identifying the Target Population

The South Carolina Department of Corrections and the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services provide supervision for the adult offender population beginning at age 17. Offenders sentenced under the Youthful Offender Act already receive extensive specialized programs, transition services and community supervision and as a result, will not be included in the target population for this grant. Offenders under the age of 17 will be addressed through the grant proposal being submitted by the SC Department of Juvenile Justice.

The target population for this grant will primarily be inmates from 17 to 35 (excluding offenders sentenced under the Youthful Offender Act) with a prior criminal history and a requirement for community supervision in the State of South Carolina *following a period of at least one year of incarceration*. Offenders incarcerated as a result of technical violations and considered to be high risk to return to incarceration will be included in this target population. Technical violators with short sentences to serve may be assigned directly to a pre-release center

to receive assistance with employment, housing and substance abuse treatment prior to their return to the community.

Fifty-four percent of offenders released in SC have no requirement for supervision. Lack of community supervision may result in fewer services provided to ex-inmates in areas such as finding employment, locating housing, substance abuse treatment, and other life skills. Inmates without a supervision requirement are definitely a concern to SCDC, but they are not included in the target population since they did not meet the Federal guidelines for the reentry initiative.

The attached table profiles the inmate population within three years of projected release to supervision. Inmates sentenced under the Truth-in-Sentencing statute will serve a minimum of 85% of their total sentence and up to two years on mandatory community supervision. Inmates who are serving split sentences (i.e., who have probation to complete) may be placed on probation for up to five years following a period of incarceration. Inmates who are eligible for parole will be considered as part of the target group, but only a small portion of them can be expected to actually be paroled at the first review.

Sex Offenders

There are approximately 2,300 men and 6 women in the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) with a sex offense as an index charge. Approximately 20% of this population are released into the community annually. The goal of the SCDC Adult Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP) is to provide treatment for those offenders who are most likely to be at high risk to re-offend based on prior sex offense history or the nature of their index offense (e.g., high number of victims, etc.) and ratings of several risk assessment instruments. The adult SOTP is presently providing intensive treatment for highest-risk sex offenders. The maximum number of male straight-time inmates allowed by present resources is 40 at any given time. Though this may appear to be a relatively small number, these offenders could have an impact upon hundreds of potential victims. While research data support a decline of sex offenses by men

against women after age 35, the decline of sex offenses against children is apparently more robust, lasting until after age 50. Approximately half of the high-risk sex offenders currently in intensive treatment are between ages of 17-35. An additional component to evaluating risk to re-offend is to assess for psychopathy. Data have suggested that individuals with psychopathy have a higher rate of recidivism, particularly among rapists. Risk instruments which classify individuals with psychopathy could become part of an assessment for reentry. All sex offenders with a requirement for supervision would be in the target population for this project.

Women Offenders

In South Carolina, women offenders have a lower rate of recidivism but they have a higher rate of mental health and other needs that are of a particular concern in planning for release. Pre-Release programming will be gender appropriate and resources will be expanded to provide assistance to women offenders. As of June 30, 2001, 78 percent of the women offenders reported having children and sentencing data indicated 73 percent of the women offenders had prior convictions. SCDC is currently exploring options to expand housing for women offenders to relieve severe overcrowding at its three facilities, and to provide dedicated space and develop more substantive programming for Transition services, work release and pre-release for women offenders.

Assessment of risks and needs will be determining factor in selecting the serious, violent and high-risk offenders for the reentry initiative. Both the SC Department of Corrections and the SC Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole Services are evaluating and updating risk instruments developed by each agency. In an effort to identify risk criteria or instruments that can be utilized by both agencies, as well as to identify common data elements for information sharing, both agencies may work jointly in evaluating and pilot testing risk instruments.

IV Organizational Capacity

The South Carolina Department of Corrections, *the sole provider of state secured adult correctional confinement for adults who have sentences of 91 days or more*, is the lead agency for the grant activity in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, the legislature, and many state, local and community organizations. *SCDC has a lengthy history of collaboration with many state agencies, such as the SC Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services, the SC Employment Security Commission, the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the SC Department of Social Services, the SC Department of Mental Health and the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. The VA Medical Center in Columbia has been involved in screening inmates for the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program. Many SCDC volunteers represent faith-based organizations. Prison Fellowship, His Way Ministries and Second Chance Ministries and KAIROS are also among faith-based organizations that are very involved in transition planning and programs. SCDC currently works with numerous community organizations, to include the Alston Wilkes Society, the Urban League, Goodwill Industries, Project Take Heart (a Home Builders Institute program) and others for the purpose of preparation and transition planning for offenders. In addition, the South Carolina Department of Corrections has established Inmate Family Advisory Groups in Partnership, which meets with the Agency Director and other officials on a quarterly basis. This group will be included in planning family involvement in reentry programming. Victim Services, a division of SCDC, is responsible for Victim Impact training. This division will be included to offer victim participation in planning and programs for the target population. The State of South Carolina Legislature has a Senate Corrections and Penology Committee, headed by Senator Mike Fair. Many legislators express interest in Department of Corrections issues and the Agency has an employee who monitors legislative issues pertaining to corrections and facilitates contact with legislative personnel. A Lexington*

County judge has been instrumental in the development of Drug Courts in the State. Discussion will be initiated with this judge to explore the possibility of Reentry Courts. In addition, there is an ongoing effort (State magistrate's Court) to facilitate inmates appearing for court to deal with detainers and outstanding charges prior to release from incarceration. Among the benefits, is the fact that many are able to have these charges satisfied by time served and do not need to be brought back through the court and prison system after release. This benefits both the inmate and the state. Also, teleconferencing is being utilized for Parole Board hearing and will be evaluated for other potential use in reentry programming.

The Director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections, Gary Maynard, has committed his support of the reentry initiative as well as the implementation of the Offender Employment Preparation Program, even though the legislation has not yet been funded. Director Maynard has met with agency heads from a number of agencies and as a result, has received a commitment for their agencies to be active partners in the initiative at both the state and local levels. The Governor of the State of South Carolina, Jim Hodges, has written an endorsement letter pledging the full support of the Governor's office in making this initiative a success. As the lead agency, SCDC has appointed a full-time Coordinator of Reentry Programs, Wanda Tarpley, who will also serve as the Project Director for the grant (resume attached). The Reentry Programs Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from SCDC, other government agencies, community organizations, as well as male and female ex-offenders, is actively planning for the successful reentry of offenders and the development of partnerships. The Steering Committee list is also attached.

Offender Employment Preparation Program

The Offender Employment Preparation Program was enacted by the SC legislature in 2001 to aid incarcerated individuals with reentry into their home communities of this state. The

South Carolina Department of Corrections was directed by the legislature to be the coordinating agency to assist inmates in preparing for meaningful employment upon release from confinement. These efforts are being coordinated with the Employment Security Commission, Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Alston Wilkes Society, and other private sector entities. The agencies designated in the legislation will adopt a memorandum of understanding by June 30, 2002, which will establish the respective responsibilities of each agency under this initiative. Other agencies involved in this initiative include the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, the Department of Mental Health, and the Office of Veterans Affairs. Although this is an unfunded legislation, the SC Department of Corrections is proceeding with the development of the Offender Employment Preparation Program and has received letters of support of the grant application for adult offenders, Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative, "Going Home." The protocol outlined for lead agencies roles and responsibilities are in the attached table.

North Columbia Reentry Partnership Initiative

SCDC is involved with a number of partnerships that serve to assist inmates as they learn new skills that help them make the transition back into the community. The Reentry Partnership Initiative focuses on government and communities working together to assist offenders with their transition back to the community. This program is a collaborative effort by government and community organizations to facilitate a smooth means of support for reentry. Participating agencies provide offenders with supervision, guidance, assistance and resource referrals while supporting victims rights and enhancing public safety.

The North Columbia Reentry Partnership Initiative, *provided for by grant funding to the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, is an established* coordinated effort with the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; the SC

Department of Corrections; the Richland County Sheriff's Department; and the Columbia City Police Department as primary partners spearheading this initiative. This program provides assistance to offenders being released to supervision as well as those who have maxed-out their sentences who will reside in the North Columbia area, 29203 Zip Code, when released. This pilot project is in the designated area that was identified as having the highest rate of incarceration in the state. This voluntary program provides offenders with assistance in reconnecting to families and communities, job placement, educational and vocational training, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, and support from the local law enforcement, social services, faith community, and work force programs.

Proviso 37.23

Planning for improvements in the area of transition programming began in earnest in Fiscal Year 2000-2001 when the legislature adopted Proviso 37.23. The proviso required the Department of Corrections to study current pre-release programs offered by the Department and to develop and implement a plan to improve pre-release services and consider public and private sector programs when developing the plan. A comprehensive progress report was submitted to the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee in December 2000.

In response to the proviso, the Director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections appointed a Pre-Release Program Advisory Task Force made up of individuals from the Department, other government agencies and the private sector. This group met to review data received from the Department's Division of Resource Information Management regarding current pre-release programming in SCDC and the needs of offenders returning to the community. The task force studied current SCDC initiatives in partnerships with other agencies/community organizations, barriers to community re-entry and gaps in available services. Task Force members also shared information about other resources in government agencies and the community, and made recommendations for further action.

Pre-release planning while incarcerated and post-release assistance in the community are essential to preventing re-offending. Not only is it important to help ex-offenders become law-abiding, productive citizens, the prevention of re-offending is at the heart of ensuring public safety. The Pre-Release Programs Advisory Task Force recommended that SCDC and other government agencies be involved as a part of a statewide network to assist ex-offenders with the re-entry transition.

Current Situation - Breadth of the Problem

The South Carolina Department of Corrections Division of Resource Information Management reviewed data about offenders released in FY 2000 to obtain information about possible needs of recently released offenders. A recent survey recommended by the University of South Carolina College of Criminal Justice and developed by the Division of Resource Information Management collected information from wardens of all institutions regarding the pre-release programming being offered in the institutions. Also, data was obtained from random samplings of inmates within 30 days of release and those who had recently returned to incarceration in order to identify services received and service needs from the inmates' perspective. Some important points from the report are highlighted as follows.

Institutional Program Offerings

The results of the questionnaire in September 2000 from SCDC wardens indicate a variety of services offered including general counseling, community service referral and community resource information in about 40% of the institutions. Around one third of institutions provide employment counseling, anger/stress management classes, general orientation to release planning, job placement, parenting classes, substance abuse counseling, as well as checking on social security cards and driver's licenses. Only eight institutions reported having personnel devoted to working with pre-release services. This survey is currently being repeated to ascertain the current level of services within SCDC.

Inmates Nearing Release and Recidivists

Of the inmates surveyed who were within 30 days of release, the most often reported need was job placement, although a variety of other needs were reported 42% to 56% of the time. These included employment counseling, obtaining a driver's license, contacting family, community orientation, community resource information and anger/stress management. Of the recidivists surveyed, 70% to 80% of males considered job-related services to be the priority needs upon release, as opposed to 30% to 50% of the females. The only service females indicated as needing more than males were parenting classes.

Ex-Offenders Who Have Made Successful Re-entry

In a telephone survey done by a graduate student in the University of South Carolina School of Criminal Justice, seventeen ex-offenders (twelve males and five females) were asked about their pre-release program experiences while incarcerated. All male respondents said they had received some form of pre-release services, with five of the males having participated in the Watkins Pre-release Center program. All the females stated that, other than minor substance abuse counseling, they had received no pre-release services. Both male and female respondents indicated there was a need for longer pre-release programming, more gender responsive programs, and more information about services available.

Academic/Vocational Education: The Division of Educational Services of the South Carolina Department of Corrections makes a concerted effort to prepare inmates for release and return to their home communities. Basic education, special education, G.E.D. preparation, literacy tutoring and various academic courses are taught in the twenty-two schools located inside correctional institutions and serve approximately 16,700 inmates per year. Also, within these schools there are 54 full-time vocational teachers providing job and employment training in 18 different trades; 16 teachers from contractual arrangements with state technical colleges providing in-house instruction in 6 vocational trades; 5 agreements with county vocational

schools teaching four programs in SCDC schools and 16 post-secondary vocational courses for young offenders taught by technical college instructors paid through a federal grant. Through these combined efforts, over 3,800 inmates received vocational education and training during FY 1999-2000, while inside SCDC institutions. In addition to receiving employable job skills training, all vocational students receive employment and life skills training as a part of the curriculum.

Job Training Opportunities: Unless exempted for health reasons, inmates in the South Carolina Department of Corrections work in some capacity while incarcerated. This work may include landscaping, food service, janitorial duties, plumbing, electrical and other maintenance jobs, farm labor and many other of a wide variety of jobs. The Division of Industries maintains traditional, service and joint venture with private sector programs. The Industries programs involve 1,900 inmates in 18 institutions. Inmates working in private sector programs develop skills that can result in employment with those companies upon release and assistance in locating housing.

Other Programs:

Young Offenders--The Division of Young Offender Services offers specialized programming for offenders under the age of 26 sentenced under the Youthful Offender Act (YOA) to help prepare them for reentry into the community. In addition to the Education programs previously mentioned, there is a strong emphasis on cognitive skills programs and changing criminal thinking patterns.

Sex Offenders--Approximately 2,300 sex offenders are incarcerated in the South Carolina Department of Corrections. The Sex Offender Treatment Program offers educational and group counseling in five institutions. There are two treatment units, at Broad River (straight sentence) and Turbeville Correctional Institutions (YOA sentence). These units house about 90 inmates and offer intensive group and individual counseling designed to reduce the risk of re-offending.

Substance Abusers--During the Reception and Evaluation process, offenders are screened for substance abuse/chemical dependency problems. Substance abuse is a problem in about three-quarters of inmates nationwide. It is critical that substance abuse issues are treated, because offenders relapse to substance use is often accompanied by a return to criminal activity. Currently, SCDC's Division of Substance Abuse Services provides educational and outpatient treatment in all institutions. There are also five intensive substance abuse treatment centers within SCDC serving 844 inmates at a time.

Mentally Ill--There are services for the mentally ill to include outpatient-counseling services to the general population at all institutions, a special unit for the chronically mentally ill and an acute care psychiatric hospital for male inmates. SCDC has a contractual agreement with the SC Department of Mental Health to provide acute inpatient psychiatric care for women offenders. Also, SCDC provides special units for the housing and treatment of the developmentally disabled.

HIV Positive, AIDS and other Physical Needs--Programs for special health care needs include units at Broad River Correctional Institution and the Camille Griffin Graham Correctional Institution for offenders who are HIV positive or have AIDS. Other special medical programs include those for inmates with physical handicaps and assisted living needs.

Existing Pre-Release Institutions and Programs

The SC Department of Corrections operates twenty-nine prisons statewide. All institutions provide a programming and work component. Level 1 pre-release centers house inmates who are within 48 months of release in minimum security institutions. These units are oriented to work through labor crews and work release employment and provide programs that prepare the inmates for release to the community. The Level 1 pre-release facilities house work release participants and inmates on labor crews that provide services for other governmental agencies

and other outside work details. Other Level 1 minimum security institutions house inmates with relatively short sentences or time to serve.

The Watkins Pre-Release Center and a small component at Goodman Correctional Center for Women provide intensive specialized Transition programs that will be expanded to additional sites through the Reentry Initiative.

The Level 1 facilities are—

Lower Savannah Pre-Release Center	Aiken, SC
Campbell Pre-Release Center	Columbia, SC
Catawba Pre-Release Center	Rock Hill, SC
Coastal Pre-Release Center	Charleston, SC
Palmer Pre-Release Center	Florence, SC
Livesay Pre-Release Center	Spartanburg, SC
Watkins Pre-Release Center	Columbia, SC
Goodman Correctional Institution for Women	Columbia, SC
Northside Correctional Institution	Spartanburg, SC
Stevenson Correctional institution	Columbia, SC
Walden Correctional Institution	Columbia, SC

SCDC Work Release Program

Presently, the South Carolina Department of Corrections utilizes a total of 693 beds for Work Release Program inmates. Inmates in the Work Release Program are near release and work on jobs that they can maintain after release. These inmates pay room and board to SCDC, pay state and federal taxes, contribute to the support of their families, pay child support and restitution if indicated, and contribute to the state's victim assistance fund. These offenders have a rate of re-offending and returning to incarceration at one half the rate of the state's average for offenders released without work release participation. A promising strategy would be to increase the capacity for Work Release.

Evaluation of the Classification System

When the current inmate classification system was implemented in 1997, specific services, such as 24-hour medical coverage, acute mental health coverage, and inpatient substance abuse treatment, were consolidated and located in high security (Level 3) institutions. This meant that inmates who scored for a less restrictive security level but required these types of services would be located in a Level 3 facility. As a result, approximately 54% of inmates in SCDC are in Level 3 institutions (maximum security), even though approximately 70% of SCDC inmates score either Level 1 (minimum security) or Level 2 (medium security).

SCDC is currently reviewing its classification system with the assistance of a consultant from the National Institute of Corrections. As part of this study, the agency is in the process of evaluating the institutions with the intention of reclassifying several facilities. The evaluation process will include ensuring that appropriate services are available for inmates in Level 1 and Level 2 facilities. It will better allow the agency to house inmates in their appropriate security level and provide substantive Transition services as inmates get closer to release.

Partnership/Contractual Services and Programs

Although many formal contractual agreements and associations with other organizations and agencies were discontinued during 1995 to 1997, some institutions were able to continue at least limited services through informal agreements. SCDC previously had a contractual agreement with the SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in which each agency was responsible for a portion of the cost of vocational rehabilitation services to inmates. When this contract was terminated by SCDC, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation continued to offer some services in institutions with that agency handling the entire cost. Currently, the Department of Corrections is embarking on a collaborative effort with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to expand vocational services within prisons and offer greater transition services to offenders as they re-enter communities. According to Mr. Charles LaRosa, former Director of the SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, it is estimated that by

becoming self-sufficient through employment, individuals pay back in taxes \$3.18 for every \$1.00 spent during their rehabilitation.

Additionally, a contract with Sistercare, Inc., to provide counseling services for female inmates who are abuse survivors was terminated. Sistercare has been providing some services at no cost to the agency, but will be unable to continue doing so indefinitely. The intent is to work with these individuals to help improve their emotional strength and stability, which will in turn help prepare them for a better post-release adjustment. The Alston Wilkes Society provides assistance to many offenders after they are released, but cannot provide an increased level of service without additional funding.

The Columbia Urban League has been offering classes to inmates who return to Midlands counties. These include six weeks of classes after release, which are taught at Benedict College, Columbia, S.C.

Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services is currently under contract to provide counseling and release planning services for inmates who are HIV positive or have AIDS. Another affiliation is with the United Way of the Midlands (Men in Transition, a program offered at Kershaw Correctional Institution). Currently, SCDC is in discussion with Goodwill Industries regarding a plan in which Goodwill would offer, without cost to our agency, job training and other release preparation assistance to SCDC inmates.

Recently, staff from the Dorn Veterans Administration Medical Center have been coming to the institutions to screen inmates who are nearing release and have reported that they are veterans for the Homeless Healthcare for Veterans Program. This is a program offered by the VA that provides assistance with housing, job training, medical, dental and mental health needs of homeless veterans. Ex-offenders who meet VA criteria are eligible for this program.

Faith-based Organizations

In addition to providing spiritual guidance, chaplains in all institutions are frequently involved assisting inmates with family contacts and release plans and coordinating with the faith-based organizations. There is a strong base of support for prison ministries among the faith-based organizations within the State of South Carolina. *A large percentage of volunteers within the prison system are associated with faith-based groups that offer various services within prison and also continue to work with offenders after release. Faith-based groups active within the prison setting also offer assistance to offenders as they make the transition back to the community. These organizations assist offenders by providing transportation, locating housing, finding employment, and meeting a variety of other transition needs. Churches throughout the state are offering mentoring services to ex-offenders.*

There is a movement presently underway in a 1,700 church organization to get each of its member churches to yearly mentor two to three offenders as they return to the community. Another faith-based organization has donated computers to the South Carolina Department of Corrections and is developing a database of community resources.

Decision Makers:

The Director, South Carolina Department of Corrections, has the ultimate authority, responsibility and control of resources for implementation of reentry programs within the Agency. SCDC will coordinate interactions with all agencies and community organizations involved in the reentry efforts. Joan Meacham, Director of The SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, will be responsible for community supervision of offenders who have been released. Larry Bryant, Director of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, has responsibility for assessment of vocational needs and follow up vocational training and placement. The Employment Security Commission, under Interim Director Charles Middlebrooks, will encourage One Stop Center involvement in offender reentry. The

Workforce Investment Board in each of the twelve Workforce Investment Centers in the state will be responsible for the One Stop employment services to offenders. SCDC Transition Coordinators will work in the respective One Stop Centers on a regular basis to help facilitate a seamless delivery of employment services to offenders as they transition to the community.

Memoranda of Understanding have been developed with the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, the SC Employment Security Commission, the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department, and the Alston Wilkes Society, all of which are cited as chief participants in the legislative Act 315 (The Offender Employment Preparation Program.) Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding has been established with Sistercare, Inc., an organization that provides counseling and assistance to battered women. Additional memoranda of understanding are being sought with other state agencies, faith-based organizations and community groups.

A list of members of the Reentry Programs Advisory committee is included with this application. Each state agency head currently involved in this effort has appointed representatives to the committee. However, the agency directors maintain authority as decision makers for their agencies. Those persons listed as representatives from community organizations will serve as decision makers for their respective groups. Two former inmates, one male and one female, are included in the advisory group and will have input not program planning. Additionally, the Director, Division of Victim Services has been added to the advisory committee and a victim representative is being sought.

A Transition Coordinator at each of the seven program sites will chair a committee of representatives of each of the state agencies with whom Memoranda of Agreement have been established. Also, an inmate family member and a victim representative will be included in this group. Recruitment of faith-based groups and other community volunteer groups will be the responsibility of the Transition Coordinators, with assistance at the state level by the SCDC

Coordinator of Reentry Programs and representatives from the Reentry Programs Advisory Committee. Because inmates from the seven sites will be released to locations throughout the state, the Transition Coordinators will share information about resources available in their areas. The Coordinator of Reentry Programs will schedule monthly meetings of the Transition Coordinators.

Funding through this initiative will provide for integration of the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (DPPPS) automated community resource database at the expanded SCDC transition locations. SCDC is currently providing DPPPS and the SC Parole Board full access to the Offender Management System database to access criminal history and incarceration history. The initial meetings with agency heads and designated representatives from the SC Employment Security Commission, the SC Department of Social Services, and others suggest information sharing will develop substantially through this initiative in conjunction with the Offender Employment Preparation Program. *The Governor will be requested to assign a staff member from his office to work with the various agencies to facilitate and monitor collaboration.*

Phase I—Protect and Prepare: Institutionally Based Programs

South Carolina Department of Corrections

- *Develop SCDC policies specific to reentry.*
- *Hire seven Transition Coordinators and provide SCDC orientation and specific job training for them.*
- *Establish training curriculum for each reentry site and recruit volunteers and employees of other agencies as well as SCDC to assist with specific classes.*

- *Transition Coordinators establish Reentry Committees in their respective areas. These will include representatives from other agencies, community organizations, inmate family members and victim representation.*
- *Establish a comprehensive, structured community referral system, including the development of a regularly updated database of community resources.*
- *Classification Case Manager at each designated institution will be responsible for referring eligible offenders for reentry program to Transition Coordinator 18 months prior to release. Six months prior to an inmate's scheduled release, the Classification Case Manager will review with the inmate his/her reentry plans to include need for picture identification and other legal documents, detainers, housing, family connections, employment issues and other needs. The Transition Coordinator will then work with the Classification Case Manager in assisting the inmate in meeting these needs. The needs would be reviewed again within 90 days of the inmate's release to ensure follow-up on meeting reentry needs.*
- *Transition Coordinator provides orientation to referred offenders, reviews inmate records, assesses documentation needs (State picture identification, Social Security card, etc.) and meets individually with each offenders to develop Individual Program Plan for offender. This will be done with input from other Reentry Committee members as well as appropriate institutional staff to include the institutional Classification Caseworker. This group will be referred to as the Transition Team. (This is different from the case management system previously mentioned, which is an institutional team which makes decisions about custody level, institutional placement, etc.) Offenders will have an active voice in*

developing their Transition Plan. Each offender will be considered a full team member and may have a family member or friend included.

- *The Transition Coordinator will conduct family meetings and have other team representatives present to offer information and assistance.*
- *Offenders will be enrolled in classes and referred for special services (i.e., Vocational Rehabilitation, Education, mentoring program, etc.) according to Individual Program Plan. Participation will be monitored and documented*
- *Within the last 90 days of incarceration, the Transition Coordinator will ensure that all needed legal documents are obtained, contacts are made with community groups to meet inmate transition needs (housing, clothing, continued education/vocational training, family meetings, mentoring programs, etc.). One Stop Centers will be involved to assist with employment issues.*
- *Each inmate will have a packet of information that will include appointment dates and times, directions to appointment sites, names and contact information of community resources upon release. The inmate will make contact within 24 hours to the local office of the Department of Parole, Probation and Pardon Services, where the reentry process will be continued in the community linking with the local One Stop Center, Family Services Center and other community and faith-based organizations.*

Phase II—Control and Restore: Community-Based Transition Programs

The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and the South Carolina Parole Board will serve as the reentry authority.

- ***South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services will develop additional alternatives to re-incarceration, i.e., an array of community-based sanctions to reduce the rate of return to prison due to technical violations.***
- ***SCDPPPS, SCDC and other agencies/organizations will establish a system to coordinate the transfer/transition of treatment services from prison to the community.***
- ***SCDPPPS will employ a risk assessment to determine the graduated levels of supervision from intensive supervision and highly structured and monitored activities and step down through less intensive supervision levels. As the offender maintains compliance with conditions of release, the coordinated case management plan will be used to direct services in conjunction with other agencies and community and faith-based organizations.***
- ***SCPPPS will have a representative on the Transition Team and will have an agent meet with each offender 90 days prior to release to discuss plans for post-release. An agent will also be available to assist with parole hearings.***
- ***Community organizations, other government agencies, and faith-based organizations will be enlisted prior to release to assist with actual community transition based on individual needs. SCPPPS and SCDC will continue to communicate with these organizations to assess offender's progress and need for additional resources.***

- *Mentoring programs in which mentors will first meet with offenders while still incarcerated and continue to work with them in the community will be developed.*

Staying Home: Phase III—Responsibility and Productivity: Community-Based Long Term Support

SC Department of Corrections, SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, and Other State and Federal Agencies (including, but not limited to, the Department of Health and Environmental Control, Department of Mental Health, Department of Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Services, Department of Social Services, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Department of Public Safety, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Veterans Administration).

Research has shown that treatment gains made while incarcerated may be lost if treatment is not continued after the offender is released. Release presents a difficult transition from the structured prison environment to the community. Ex-offenders often lack the knowledge and skills to access available resources in the community, which increases the risk of re-offending. Agencies must reach across traditional roles and service boundaries by brokering services across systems, sharing information and facilitating the treatment process. Therefore, these agencies should:

- Evaluate policies, procedures and practices that may present barriers to offenders access to services.
- Collaborate with other agencies to provide programs across agencies.

- Open up services to come into prisons and provide Transition programs while an individual is incarcerated, but nearing release. This would involve forming partnerships with SCDC and other agencies to offer transition services from inside prison to the community.
- Collaborate with SCDC, other agencies and community partners on grant proposals, grant funding and resources.
- Establish a standardized referral system to be utilized across agencies.
- Establish partnerships with private sector businesses and organizations, as well as other agencies.

Legislature

- Fund the Offender Employment Preparation Program and other essential components for the Reentry Initiative to sustain the components when grant resources expire. Explore the allocation of funds across state agencies to be designated for services for ex-offenders.
- Explore legislative issues/governing policies that may present barriers to successful re-entry programs.
- Develop statewide supervision and case management for all offenders. (Case Management involves the coordination of community supervision, health and social services and other services to assist the individual in successfully adapting to community life.) Ideally, a single, full time case manager would work in transition with a team of members from multiple systems.
- Develop registration requirements for organizations assisting offenders with reentry and establish a statewide aftercare network with a coordinator.
- Support a measure to coordinate government and private efforts to reduce redundancy.
- Explore other community corrections solutions.
- Appoint an on-going statewide re-entry advisory task force made up of representatives from the public and private sectors, law enforcement and ex-offenders.

Government agencies, community organizations, business and the community-at-large should see that the following measures are taken:

- *Encourage ex-offenders to remain in contact with community organizations and agencies, which have assisted them in reentry.*
- *Continue mentoring programs with ex-offenders and encourage ex-offenders to act as mentors to others as they are released to the community.*
- *Encourage the establishment of support/self-help groups for ex-offenders and their families.*
- *Support the development of long-term programs such as the Delancey Street Project, expansion of Alston Wilkes Society programs, Family Services Center programs and others.*

Program Evaluation

It will be a priority for agencies in partnership in this initiative to develop successful strategies and to evaluate the program components for the short-term incremental stages in the development, as well as the long-term successes and lessons learned. We are committed to developing the performance measures and evaluation components necessary to meet the project requirements. The SCDC Division of Resource and Information Management has substantial expertise in statistical analysis and evaluation methodology. The DPPPS Research Department will also make a significant contribution to the overall evaluation. In addition, the grant budget includes funds to support this component.

We anticipate participating fully in the process evaluation when the national evaluator has the template designed and disseminates instructions for compiling the data. Through this grant proposal, we are also applying for participation in the national evaluation.

ATTACHMENTS

REENTRY PROGRAMS STEERING COMMITTEE

RESUME OF PROJECT DIRECTOR

ABSTRACT

**PROFILE OF MALES AND FEMALES, AGES 17-35, WITHIN 3 YEARS OF
RELEASE**

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

**PROTOCOL FOR LEAD AGENCIES IN PARTNERSHIP IN THE SERIOUS AND
VIOLENT OFFENDER REENTRY INITIATIVE**

BUDGET NARRATIVE

BUGET

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
REENTRY PROGRAMS STEERING COMMITTEE**

Representatives from the Department of Corrections

Elizabeth Lybrand	Director, Volunteer Services
Valeta Geddis	Education, Goodman Correctional Institution
Robert Peterson	Deputy General Counsel
Judy Anderson	Director, Program Services
Hoyt Sharpe	Assistant Superintendent, Education
Gloria Seabrook	Program Supervisor, Watkins Pre-Release Center
James Murray	State Director, Prison Fellowship
Denise Thompson	Volunteer
Bernard McKie	Director, Institutional Division I
Annie Wilson	Program Supervisor, Goodman Correctional Institution
Wanda Tarpley	Coordinator, Reentry Programs
Sammie Brown	Coordinator, Grants and Other Resource Development
<i>Barbara Grissom</i>	<i>Director, Division of Victim Services</i>

Representatives from Other Government Agencies

Margaret Kerlopiian	SC Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
Barbara Hollis	SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
Earl Pope	SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
Carla Damron	SC Department of Mental Health
Ken Wagner	SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
Paul Palmer	SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
Paul Johnson	SC Department of Public Safety
Brent Garvin	SC Employment Security Commission
Patricia Bradford	US Department of Veterans Affairs, Dorn VA Medical Center
Clark Leslie	SC Department of Social Services

Representatives from Community Organizations

Brenetta Cooper	Prevent Child Abuse
Elmiva Rutherford	Goodwill Industries
Anne Walker	Alston Wilkes Society
Paula Coleman	Girl Scout Council of Congaree Area
Bob Lindsley	Excel Commercial Cleaning Service
Jane Ussery	Alston Wilkes Society
Glenna Minor	HBI—Project Take Heart
Kathy McGuire	St. Andrews Baptist Church
Richard Barr	Fatherhood/Columbia Urban League
Reverend S. Paul McKee	Columbia Metro Baptist Association
Pastor Dottie Keisler	A New Beginning in Lexington Christian Life Center
Libby Campbell	Sistercare, Inc.
Jack McGovern	His Way Ministry
Joanne Kernahan	Women's Shelter

Wanda D. Tarpley, Coordinator of Reentry Programs

South Carolina Department of Corrections
4444 Broad River Road, Central Office
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 896-7719

Tarpley.Wanda@doc.state.sc.us

Education:

Master of Arts Degree in Psychology, August 1975
Radford University, Radford, Virginia

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, May, 1972
Columbia College, Columbia, SC

Work Experience:

Coordinator, Reentry Programs 2000-present
South Carolina Department of Corrections
Columbia, SC

- Coordinating and directing programs related to preparing offenders for re-entry into the community
- development of new programming and program outcome evaluation.

Director, Division of Mental Health Services 1997-2000
South Carolina Department of Corrections
Columbia, SC

- Overall supervision and direction of Mental Health Services for offenders within the Department of Corrections

Contract Counselor, Part time, 1997-2000
SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
Columbia, SC

- Counseling and psychological evaluation of clients served by DDSN-on referral

Associate Director, Division of Mental Health Services, 1994-1997
South Carolina Department of Corrections
Columbia, SC

- Management and supervision of Institutional Behavioral Medicine Services

Psychologist, part time, 1994-1996
SC Department of Juvenile Justice
Columbia, SC

- Psychological evaluation of youths entering the Reception and Evaluation Center of DJJ- on referral

Psychologist III, 1993-1994
South Carolina Department of Corrections
Columbia, SC

- Supervising psychologist for the Gilliam Psychiatric Hospital
- psychological evaluation and therapy of high profile and special cases

Psychologist III, 1990-1993
South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation
Columbia, SC

- Psychological evaluation
- Development of Behavioral Life skill Plans
- Counseling and behavioral intervention

Psychologist III, 1987-1990
South Carolina Department of Corrections
Columbia, SC

- Psychological evaluation
- Group and individual psychotherapy

Psychologist II-III, 1985-1987
SC Department of Mental Health
Columbia, SC

- Psychological intake and evaluation
- Group and individual psychotherapy

Professional Counselor, 1981-1985
Andrew Bockner, MD, PC
Roanoke, Virginia

- Psychological evaluation
- Group and individual psychotherapy
- Marriage and family therapy
- Biofeedback treatment

Psychologist I-III
SC Department of Mental Health, 1979-1981
Columbia, SC

- Psychological evaluation
- Group and individual psychotherapy

Psychology Technician, 1972-1979
Veterans Administration Medical Center
Salem, Virginia

- Psychological test administration and report writing
- Assistant to psychologist for the Biofeedback and Behavioral Therapy Unit
- Co-therapist for group therapy

Licensure: Licensed Professional Counselor in South Carolina, since 1987-
License #840

Activities: St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Columbia, SC-
Member of the Vestry
Altar Guild Sacristan

Girl Scouts of the Congaree, Columbia, SC-
Adult member

USC Gamecock Club- member

Special Education Steering Committee
Lexington/Richland School District 5, Columbia, SC-
Former member-remain interested in Special Education needs
in the school district

References: Available upon request.

Abstract

The South Carolina Department of Corrections and the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services provide supervision for the adult offender population beginning at age 17. The South Carolina Going Home Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative addresses these adult offenders. Juvenile offenders under the age of 17 are being addressed through the grant proposal submitted by the SC Department of Juvenile Justice.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) houses more than 21,000 inmates at any given time. Of these inmates, more than 10,000 are released to the community each year with an overall recidivism rate of 32.3%. Young offenders between the ages of 17 and 35 have returned at a significantly higher rate than older inmates and the inmates 25 or younger returned at double the rate of those over 40 years old.

The target population for this grant will primarily be inmates from 17 to 35 (excluding offenders sentenced under the Youthful Offender Act¹) who will have a requirement for community supervision in the State of South Carolina following a period of at least six months of incarceration. Approximately 450 sex offenders are released annually to the community. While research data support a decline of sex offenses by men against women after age 35, the decline of sex offenses against children is apparently more robust, lasting until after age 50. Consequently, sex offenders over age 35 with a requirement for community supervision will also be included in the target population. The target population for services under this grant is expected to number approximately 1,500 by the third year.

The Offender Employment Preparation Program was enacted by the SC legislature in 2001 to aid incarcerated individuals with reentry into their home communities of this state. The South Carolina Department of Corrections was directed by the legislature to be the coordinating agency to assist inmates in preparing for meaningful employment upon release from confinement. These efforts are being coordinated with the Employment Security Commission, Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon

¹ Inmates who are sentenced under the South Carolina Youthful Offender Act (YOA) are already provided with intensive educational and vocational opportunities, life skills classes, addiction treatment, preparation for release, and aftercare supervision in the community; therefore, they will not be included as part of the target population.

Services, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Alston Wilkes Society, and other private sector entities. Through the Going Home Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative—

Phase I—Institutionally Based Programs, the South Carolina Department of Corrections will expand Transition services to the three major regions of the state to prepare inmates for reentry into the community.

- Validated risk and needs instruments and improved guidelines will be utilized to identify inmates in the serious, violent and high-risk categories and plan for their release.
- The classification system will incorporate a step-down approach so that institutional assignments will allow offenders to make a gradual transition to less secure facilities.
- Transition services will be expanded to more facilities to increase the number of inmates in pre-release programs.
- There will be special emphasis on preparing inmates for meaningful employment upon release from confinement.

Phase II—Control and Restore: Community-Based Transition Programs, the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services will—

- Develop additional alternatives to re-incarceration, i.e., an array of community based sanctions to reduce the rate of return to prison due to technical violations.
- Establish a system to coordinate the transfer/transition of treatment services from prison to the community.
- Employ graduated levels of supervision from intensive supervision and highly structured and monitored activities and step down through less intensive supervision levels as the offender maintains compliance with conditions of release through coordinated case management.
- Expand the range of services designed to aid transition.

Phase III—Responsibility and Productivity: Community-Based Long Term Support will be a collaborative effort between the SC Department of Corrections, Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, the legislature and other local, state and federal agencies.

SOUTH CAROLINA

GOING HOME REENTRY

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

We, the undersigned, by signing this Partnership Agreement, agree on the definition of what participation in the Reentry-Going Home Initiative means by outlining the commitment to members and each member's commitment to the initiative. Each Reentry-Going Home partner will define, on a separate letter, its specific commitment of participation to the initiative, and define services available to initiative clients within their agencies. This role and commitment is also attached as a partner/roles chart.

General Responsibilities of the Initiative:

The Going Home Reentry Initiative, through its lead agency the South Carolina Department of Corrections, will:

- Develop policies and standards as may be necessary for the provision of assessment, training and referral services
- Obtain information from appropriate agencies and organizations affiliated with the services to determine actions that should be undertaken to create or modify reentry services
- Disseminate information about Initiative services and activities throughout the State
- Provide offenders with information concerning Reentry-Going Home Initiative services and other post-release services
- Hold regular Initiative meetings, distribute minutes and prepare an annual report that will be submitted to the directors of agencies and organizations that are parties to the Initiative
- Provide information and assistance to other agencies and organizations, as may be appropriate or necessary, to carry out the provisions of the Initiative
- Make referrals of Initiative clients to appropriate Initiative members for services
- Share the results of the program evaluation with members
- Facilitate a shared strategy to sustain the project

General Responsibilities of All Members:

Initiative members agree to:

- Ascertain offenders' risks/needs for making a successful transition back into the community
- Develop skills enhancement programs for offenders as appropriate
- Develop and maintain a statewide network of both governmental and private sector resources and a referral system for services to assist offenders in reentry
- Appoint staff with decision-making authority to serve on the Reentry-Going Home Initiative Reentry Steering Committee and local Reentry Program Committees
- Participate fully in the project planning and implementation
- Provide necessary Transition services to offenders as appropriate
- Consistent with laws and regulations governing participant protection, provide client and systems information necessary to conduct program evaluation
- Cooperate with Network evaluation activities
- Work to continue the Reentry Program after federal funding ends.

Note: Signed copy has been faxed to the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs

PROTOCOL FOR LEAD AGENCIES IN PARTNERSHIP IN THE SERIOUS AND VIOLENT OFFENDER REENTRY INITIATIVE

	SCDC	INTERAGENCY PARTNER
SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services	<p>Coordinate exchange of case management information to DPPPS to ensure continuity of reentry programs from incarceration to community supervision.</p> <p>Provide electronic data to DPPPS regarding all new admissions to SCDC.</p> <p>Notify DPPPS monthly of the addresses of offenders eligible for release.</p> <p>Transport inmates to video conference locations within SCDC for parole hearings.</p> <p>Provide space within SCDC for DPPPS staff to conduct interviews/ meetings with inmates.</p>	<p>Provide community supervision of reentry participants with a requirement for supervision.</p> <p>Conduct quarterly meetings at an SCDC facility for the North Columbia Reentry Partnership.</p> <p>Verify and approve/disapprove release information provided by SCDC.</p> <p>Interview offenders eligible for parole prior to parole hearings.</p> <p>Provide DPPPS staff at SCDC videoconference locations for parole hearings</p>
SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation	<p>SCDC shall provide contact persons within the agency.</p> <p>Provide release list to VR as soon as it is available, preferably up to 3 months prior to release.</p> <p>Provide requested inmate information from inmate records (face sheet, medical, etc.) after obtaining a signed release of information from the inmate.</p> <p>Work with VR staff to develop individualized release plans.</p> <p>Provide workspace for VR staff at SCDC.</p>	<p>Interview and certify those eligible for VR services prior to release if possible and/or refer inmate to VR</p> <p>Office in appropriate county (set appointment.)</p> <p>Develop/assist in development of individualized release plans.</p> <p>Make available those services for which an inmate qualifies upon release.</p> <p>.</p>
SC Employment Security Commission	<p>SCDC shall ensure whenever possible that inmates have obtained a Social Security card prior to release.</p> <p>Provide SCESC with a referral sheet listing offender's employment history.</p> <p>Provide a representative from SCDC to be a partner in a designated SCESC office one day weekly for offering assistance in job referral and placement for ex-offenders. This would be done on a 6-month trial basis, with each agency then reviewing together the value of this placement.</p> <p>Provide accommodations for a job fair on SCDC property yearly.</p> <p>Provide space at SCDC institutions for SCESC staff to interview inmates nearing release.</p> <p>Provide transportation, escort to SCESC offices for inmates who are nearing release at level I facilities.</p>	<p>Provide assistance for inmates with registration into the SCESC system.</p> <p>Provide assistance to SCDC with Job Fair planning and coordination.</p> <p>Provide contact information for employment (One Stop Centers for each county in South Carolina and contact person.)</p> <p>Provide inmates with information regarding eligibility for unemployment insurance.</p> <p>Provide electronic information to SCDC regarding ex-offenders who came to SCESC for employment services, who obtained employment and who are still working after 30, 60 and 90 days, 6 months, and one year.</p> <p>Provide interviews for inmates who are nearing release either at SCESC offices or, for those who cannot leave their institutions, at the institutions.</p> <p>Make job referrals for offenders and provide follow up services.</p>

	SCDC	INTERAGENCY PARTNER
Alston Wilkes Society	<p>SCDC shall provide names of offenders within one month of release who qualify for certain AWS services due to indigence or need for shelter.</p> <p>Provide space at SCDC facilities for interviews with offenders.</p>	<p>Provide a list of case managers (name, address and telephone number) statewide who will provide services for offenders prior to and after release.</p> <p>Provide a waiver for picture ID's to offenders who qualify based on need when they are released.</p> <p>Provide referral to other agencies as appropriate to meet the basic aftercare needs of offenders (clothing, food, etc.)</p> <p>Provide information to SCDC and offenders regarding the AWS Veterans Home, a place available for homeless veterans to live for up to two years.</p>
Sistercare	<p>SCDC shall provide access for Sistercare employees to the Camille Griffin Graham, Leath and Goodman Correctional Institutions.</p> <p>Provide a room at each of these facilities for group and individual counseling on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Provide referrals of those inmates who need the services of Sistercare.</p>	<p>Sistercare shall provide counseling services to inmates at the three above named institutions.</p> <p>Accept referrals for inmates who may need the type services provided by Sistercare.</p> <p>Provide aftercare services or appropriate referral for offenders desiring to continue services after release</p>